

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 L-03 H-01 /116 W
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P 230649Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2054
INFO US TREAS WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4061

MANILA FOR ADB

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EFIN IN
SUBJECT: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) ANNUAL MEETING

REF: STATE 058689

1. FINATT CALLED ON MIKLESH PRASHAD, OFFICER AT THE
FINANCE MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF ADB AFFAIRS. HE WAS NOT AWARE
OF ANY ISSUES THAT INDIA CONTRMPLATES RAISING AT THE MEETING
AT THIS POINT BUT DID THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME DISCUSSION
ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IT SEEMS
THAT GERMANY WOULD LIKE A PERMANENT SEAT BUT THIS WOULD
NECESSITATE A CHANGE IN ADB'S CHARTER.

2. INDIA HAS NO SPECIFIC ISSUES IT WANTS TO RAISE
WITH THE US BUT OF COURSE WILL ASK THE USUAL QUESTIONS
ABOUT THE SIZE AND TIMING OF OUR CONTRIBUTIONS, BOTH TO
ORDINARY CAPITAL AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND. HOWEVER,
IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS THERE MAY BE QUESTIONS ABOUT
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3. THERE ARE NO ISSUES THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THAT
THE US DELEGATION SHOULD RAISE WITH THE INDIAN DELEGATION.

4. AS TO THE INDIAN DELEGATION FOR THIS MEETING,
THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO BE FORMED AND THEREFORE THE FINANCE

MINISTER, WHO USUALLY LEADS THE DELEGATION, HAS YET TO BE CHOSEN.
IN ANY EVENT THE DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY BE AS FOLLOWS:

THE FINANCE MINISTER (GOVERNOR)
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FINANCE (ALTERNATE
GOVERNOR)
JOINT SECRETARY S.V.S. JUNEJA, RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE ADB
MR. NIKLESH PRASHAD
MR. A. MOZZOMDAR, ALTERNATE INDIAN EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, ADB
MR. L. N. RAY, INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA
FINANCE MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY.

5. MR. PRASHAD POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE
DELEGATION ARE NEW THIS YEAR. MANMOHAN SINGH HAD FORMERLY
BEEN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER IN DEA; JUNEJA WAS FORMERLY WITH
THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH; MOZZOMDAR HAD BEEN
A JOINT SECRETARY AT THE FINANCE MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR
PUBLIC EXPENDITURE; RAY HAD FORMERLY BEEN AMBASSADOR TO
NEW ZEALAND; AND PRASHAD ONLY RETURNED FROM A POSTING IN
INDONESIA 4 MONTHS AGO.

6. COMMENT: THE NEXT MONTH OR SO WILL BE AN UN-
USUALLY BUSY PERIOD FOR THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. NOT ONLY
WILL THERE BE A NEW FINANCE MINISTER BUT PREPARATIONS FOR
THE BUDGET WILL BE IN FULL SWING. THEREFORE, WHILE THE
BASIC POSITIONS OF THE GOI AT THE ADB MEETING WILL PROBABLY
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NOT CHANGE, THERE MAY BE CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE
DELEGATION.

7. WASHINGTON WILL BE INFORMED OF THE FINAL COMPOSITION
OF THE DELEGATION AND ANY FURTHER INDIAN VIEWS ON THE
MEETING AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.
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